

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 15 and cancel claims 14 and 16 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A regulator comprising:

- a body having a primary port for introducing a fluid under pressure and a secondary port for delivering the fluid regulated to a desired pressure;
- a valve head displaceably disposed in said body for being unseated from and seated on a valve seat for opening and closing a fluid passage which interconnects said primary port and said secondary port;
- a rod coupled to said valve head for displacement in unison with the valve head;
- a diaphragm engaging said rod and flexible for displacing said rod in an axial direction of said rod;
- a nozzle comprising a tube body having a suction hole directed toward said secondary port; and
- a back pressure chamber defined at an end of said rod for acting in a direction to cancel out a pressure applied to said valve head, and an aspirator chamber defined closely to said valve head for developing a pressure lower than a pressure in said secondary port due to a suction caused by said nozzle, said rod having a communication hole which provides fluid communication between said back pressure chamber and said aspirator chamber,

wherein said regulator is incorporated in a fuel cell system having a fuel cell stack having an anode and a cathode,

said regulator being mounted in a bypass passage between a pressure controller for discharging a pressure to the secondary port which has been regulated depending on a pilot pressure, and an anode humidifier for humidifying a fuel delivered from an ejector to a predetermined humidity and supplying the humidified fuel to said fuel cell stack.

2. (Original) A regulator according to claim 1, further comprising a valve seat member which has said valve seat, said valve seat member having a tapered surface providing a fluid passage cross section which progressively spreads along the fluid passage communicating with said secondary port.

3. (Original) A regulator according to claim 2, further comprising an aspirator holder, said aspirator chamber being defined by said aspirator holder, said aspirator holder having a slanted surface, said fluid passage cross section being provided so as to progressively spread between said slanted surface of said aspirator holder and said tapered surface of the valve seat member.

4. (Original) A regulator according to claim 1, wherein said valve head is mounted on a guide member connected to an end of said rod, said valve head being guided by a valve head guide member having a guide sleeve which surrounds an outer circumferential surface of the guide member except for said valve head.

5. (Original) A regulator according to claim 4, wherein a fluororesin coating is applied to a sliding region of the outer circumferential surface of the guide member and the guide sleeve.

6. (Original) A regulator according to claim 4, wherein a pair of sealing members spaced a predetermined distance from each other axially of the guide member which is cylindrical is disposed between said guide member and said guide sleeve.

7. (Original) A regulator according to claim 6, wherein each of said sealing members comprises an O-ring.

8. (Original) A regulator according to claim 6, wherein an annular space communicating with a communication hole extending axially of said rod is defined between said sealing members.

9. (Original) A regulator according to claim 4, wherein said valve head guide member is separate from said body.

10. (Original) A regulator according to claim 9, wherein said valve head guide member has a hole defined centrally therein which is contiguous to said guide sleeve, said hole being closed by a removable closure member.

11. (Previously Presented) A regulator according to claim 1, further comprising a leaf spring disposed in said pilot chamber for applying a sliding resistance to said diaphragm, said leaf spring having a leg with a curved portion held in contact with a cylindrical bushing of stainless steel which is mounted in said body.

12. (Previously Presented) A regulator according to claim 11, wherein said leaf spring has an outer surface coated with a diamond-like carbon coating.

13. (Original) A regulator according to claim 11, further comprising a first adjustment member and a second adjustment member for adjusting in two stages the spring force of a spring for pressing said diaphragm toward said valve head.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A regulator according to claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein said fuel cell system is mounted on an automobile.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A regulator comprising:
a body having a primary port for introducing a fluid under pressure and a secondary port for delivering the fluid regulated to a desired pressure;
a valve head displaceably disposed in said body for being unseated from and seated on a valve seat for opening and closing a fluid passage which interconnects said primary port and said secondary port;
a rod coupled to said valve head for displacement in unison with the valve head;
a diaphragm engaging said rod and flexible for displacing said rod in an axial direction of said rod;
a back pressure chamber defined at an end of said rod for acting in a direction to cancel out a pressure applied to said valve head, and an aspirator chamber defined closely to said valve head for developing a pressure lower than a pressure in said secondary port due to a suction caused by a nozzle, said rod having a communication hole which provides fluid communication

between said back pressure chamber and said aspirator chamber;

a valve seat member which has said valve seat, said valve seat member having a tapered surface providing a fluid passage cross section which progressively spreads along the fluid passage communicating with said secondary port; and

an aspirator holder, said aspirator chamber being defined by said aspirator holder, said aspirator holder having a slanted surface, said fluid passage cross section being provided so as to progressively spread between said slanted surface of said aspirator holder and said tapered surface of the valve seat member.